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PRESS RELEASE

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Georgia CON reform signed into law



ATLANTA – Governor Sonny Perdue signed groundbreaking legislation today that will reform Georgia’s certificate of need (CON) laws. Authored by Majority Leader Tommie Williams (R-Lyons), Senate Bill 433 makes significant changes to current CON requirements, which will open the door for an innovative cancer treatment center to come to Georgia.

“With the Governor’s support of this legislation, patients are going to see state of the art cancer care and treatment in Georgia,” said Sen. Williams. “By relaxing current CON restrictions, we can provide citizens with more choices in treatment options and better access to quality healthcare.”

Under the legislation, many of the current restrictions imposed by Georgia’s CON regulations will be lifted, paving the way for Cancer Treatment Centers of America to establish a destination cancer treatment center in Atlanta. Creating more healthcare options for Georgia’s patients will increase

competition in the healthcare marketplace, providing some financial relief to those facing rising healthcare costs.

In addition, SB 433 significantly reforms state regulation of medical and hospital care. There has been discussion for years in the medical community that current regulations are considerably outdated. The bill will allow ambulatory surgical centers offering special services like prenatal care and obstetrical care to operate in private businesses, and allow hospitals the ability to build or further renovate their facilities.

“Many individuals contributed a great deal of time and energy to reaching a sound compromise on how best to provide effective healthcare reform to Georgia’s patients,” Sen. Williams added. “I must acknowledge the contributions of both my Senate and House colleagues, including Senator Don Balfour and Representatives Sharon Cooper, Mickey Channell, Austin Scott and Jerry Keen for their cooperative efforts in ensuring that we give our constituents the best healthcare treatment options possible.”

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Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams represents the 19th Senate District which includes Appling, Jeff Davis, Long, Montgomery, Toombs, Wayne and Wheeler counties and a portion of Liberty and Tattnall counties. He can be reached at (404) 656-0089 or by email at tommie@tommiewilliams.com.